

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 261481

LIMDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR HABIB

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS REYKJAVIK 1586 ACTION

SECSTATE USUN NEW YORK INFO COPENHAGEN

HELSINKI OSLO PHNOM PENH STOCKHOLM NATO

26 NOVEMBER 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1586

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR UNGA CB IC

SUBJECT: KHMER IN 29TH UNGA; FONMIN DIRECTS ICELANDIC ABSTENTION

REF: USUN 5400

1. ON RECEIPT REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR ATTEMPTED CONTACT FONMIN AGUSTSSON WHO HAS BEEN ILL FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS AND WAS UNWILLING MEET WITH ANYONE. REPRESENTATION, THEREFORE, HAD TO BE MADE THROUGH SECGEN OF MFA PETUR THORSTEINSSON. POINTS WERE MADE TO THORSTEINSSON THAT IN CLOSE VOTE ABSTENTION MIGHT WELL BE TANTAMOUNT TO VOTE FOR EJECTION OF SITTING UN MEMBER AND THAT
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WE HAD BEEN TOLD ICELAND STOOD AS MATTER PRINCIPLE AGAINST SUCH

EJECTION. AFTER TALKING WITH FONMIN, THORSTEINSSON REPORTED BACK THAT AGUSTSSON SAID HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS NOVEMBER 25 FOR ABSTENTION ON ALL MATTERS CONNECTED WITH KHMER ISSUE AND WAS ADAMANT THAT HE WOULD NOT CHANGE OR EXPLAIN THOSE INSTRUCTIONS. THORSTEINSSON SAID JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM HAD ALSO CALLED MINISTRY AND BEEN GIVEN SAME ANSWER.

2. COMMENT: THIS REGRETTABLE REVERSAL OF WHAT WE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE WAS GOI POSITION PROBABLY STEMS FROM TWO CONCERNS ON PART OF FONMIN: (1) HE HAS BEEN UNDER CRITICISM FROM COMMUNISTS, MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SOME MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY, AND SOME SECTORS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ICELANDIC VOTE ON PLO ISSUE, AND (2) FONMIN HAS FOR LAST FEW WEEKS BEEN SUBJECT TO UNMERCIFUL CRITICISM FROM LEFTISTS, AND ESPECIALLY FROM COMMUNISTS, FOR HIS ROLE IN ACCEPTANCE OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT. (EXAMPLE: COMMUNIST PRESS HAS INAUGURATED A CONTEST FOR THE MOST INSULTING, UNFLATTERING POEM ABOUT FONMIN.) SINCE HE IS BASICALLY A WEAK MAN WHO ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE PUSHED IN POLICY MATTERS, HE IS SUBJECT TO PRESSURES ON ALL SIDES. IN THIS CASE, WE SUSPECT PRESSURE MAY HAVE COME FROM ICELANDIC PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORS ON GOI UN DELEGATION, MOST OF WHOM ARE LEFT-LEANING. BEING ON DEFENSIVE ON ISSUES NOTED ABOVE, IT IS IN CHARACTER FOR HIM TO MAKE DECISION DESIRED BY LEFTISTS, HIDE OUT, AND REMAIN ADAMANT. IRVING

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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